Methodist Peace Courier

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GETTING STEWARDSHIP OUT OF KNEE-PANTS!

Stewardship --- a peace concern? Hardly, if the conventional notion persists that it is how one uses his money and how much he gives his church.

At least two further aspects of stewardship have been raised: what we owe to others, which usually ends in a summons to share, and, in agricultural regions, soil and conservation.

In an industrial society the issues are less clear, although noble beginnings have been made concerning fair labor practices, adequate working and living conditions, and certain other domestic problems treated in our Social Creed.

But the full extension of stewardship challenges peace advocates today. What about the effects of our military effort on our prosperity? What about the "economics of peace making?" Consider the utilization of raw materials and basic resources necessary to maintain our desired standard of living.

The serious extension of stewardship to include the well-being of all mankind has not sufficiently occupied the mind and thought of the Church. If you care, you will share; we are told. But what if sharing is already too late a starting point in the whole process? What precedes benevolence?

United States production is over 100 times the present annual world rate. We produce 10,000 calories of potential food daily even though the human body needs but 3,000. Yet more people are hungrier each year and there never has been over-production of the basic food and fiber needed to maintain life adequately. The American farmer utilizes 5,000 calories of energy daily in addition to his own efforts; the Japanese farmer has as supplement but 100 calories. We have one scientist or engineer for each 200 people; India has one for each 30,000.

Can we Americans ever really sense the elemental human problem again? In a world where:

1. More people live in huts of mud and straw than in an other kind of shelter.
2. More travel on their own two feet than on all mechanized means of transport.
3. More people have a life expectancy under 30 years than over.
4. More mothers watch their children die in infancy than see all their offspring reach mature years.
5. More people live without medical aid than know the attention of nurse or doctor.
6. More people do not know what it means to vote than have ever cast even a single ballot.

Our scientific and technical advances have dulled our minds to the fact that more people are hungry, ill-clad and poorly housed than there were in 1900. And tomorrow the story will be worse despite the progress in many newly-developed countries. These realistic truths demand interpretation in terms of Christian stewardship.

Stewardship, furthermore, is the extension of Christian concern into the future. What of those who come after us?

A cardinal problem, of course, is the possible genetic damage from radioactivity, particularly from bomb tests. But that has been treated so adequately elsewhere that we turn our attention to a different problem.

Less spectacular, but perhaps no less important, is the use of basic resources to expand our advanced standard of living, and especially for the gigantic military preparations of the USA and USSR. To canvass this problem is a stewardship challenge to proponents of peace. Let us take but one aspect of it.

To maintain our way of life and its pleasures the American people consume the basic potential of several oncoming generations. Add to this the military effort, and it can be conservatively stated that we are utilizing ten or a dozen times the basic mineral and fuel deposits to which one generation is entitled.

New energy from atomic and heavy hydrogen processes, providentially discovered near the end of the fossil fuels, provides us with limitless sources of power. But power must be applied to substance in an industrial society.

Easily accessible and high-grade ores are slowly disappearing. Six times as much ore must be processed today to obtain a given amount of copper as in 1900. A similar condition holds with reference to taconites for iron and bauxite for aluminum. There is no cause for alarm as to a scarcity of such elements; their presence in common basalt is limitless. But the cost of processing them is quite another matter.

Ordinary igneous rock contains per hundred tons, 8 tons of aluminum, 5 tons of iron, 180

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ISSUES ON CAPITOL HILL

Supporters of the renewal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act without crippling amendments and the further reduction of trade barriers have made an impressive showing in the he hearings of the House Ways and Means Committee. Influential groups which have strongly urged continued efforts to increase world trade include the American Farm Bureau Federation, United Church Women, Committee for Economic Development, AFL-CIO, International Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, Motion Picture Association, and National Farmers' Union. Now is an important time to write to your representative and senators to let them know your concern for the renewal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act and for congressional approval of U.S. participation in the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

AID

In late February the National Council of Churches General Board took action "strongly" supporting an expanded non-military program of mutual aid as well as programs for reciprocal foreign trade "in the light of our Christian obligation to care for our neighbors throughout the world." On March 14 a representative of the National Council testified before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives which is holding hearings on the mutual security program. Many members of Congress believe that our government is giving too much military aid to countries which are then burdened with the support of an oversized military establishment. Military aid also aggravates relations between countries like Pakistan and India, increases tensions in the Middle East, and enables dictators like Batista in Cuba to stay in power and disregard the popular will. Have you communicated your views to your senators and representative?

FARM SURPLUSES

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has reported favorably a bill to extend the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act unil 1960. The bill authorizes the sale of an additional $500 million in farm surpluses to friendly countries for their currency between now and June 30, plus $1.5 billion for each of the next two years. The measure would enlarge the uses to which the foreign currency acquired can be put to include the educational exchange of farm leaders, labor leaders, journalists and civic leaders plus assistance to schools and workshops. A section which would permit financial aid to educational institutions abroad founded or sponsored by American citizens is receiving critical study by Protestant leaders who see danger in possible government aid to church educational missionary programs.

FROZEN FUND

During World War II some American Conscientious objectors performed emergency farm labor and similar work for private persons under government supervision. The men were not allowed to retain their full salary, and a total of $1,407,976.96 was paid into the U.S. Treasury. Under an agreement made by the government, this money was to be paid to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors representing the churches and used for war rehabilitation work. The Comptroller General ruled this could not be done without legislation by Congress. Under H.R. 9882 introduced by Rep. A.S.J. Carnahan (D.,Mo.) and referred to the House Judiciary Committee, Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.) chairman, and assigned to the Subcommittee on Claims, Thomas J. Lane (D., Mass.) chairman, the money would be used by by the NSBRO for foreign rehabilitation and refugee relief and resettlement programs in ways meeting the approval of the Director of Selective Service and the government's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid. If you are interested in helping the government keep its agreement, communicate your views to Representatives Celler and Lane as well as your own representative and senators.

DISARMAMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Established in 1955, the subcommittee on disarmament of the Committee on Foreign Relations has been continued by Senate action for another six months, until July 31, 1958. Under the able leadership of Senator Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.) the subcommittee has held several days of public hearings, published nine staff studies, and issued a report with conclusions and recommendations in September 1957. Copies of these are available on request from either of your senators. The Foreign Relations Committee indicated that it contemplated some kind of continuing means for working on the disarmament issue after July 31. Note that Senator Humphrey on February 4 pointed out to the Senate that more than 75,000 persons are engaged in perfecting the Atlas ICBM, while Mr. Stassen's disarmament staff of 40 was being cut in half and placed under the State Department and Mr. Wadsworth. The Defense Department is reported to have one or two persons working on arms control.

ROTC

Pennsylvania State University is reported to be considering a program of two years of compulsory military training and civilian defense courses for both men and women. ,This could mean the first women conscientious objectors to military training in U.S. history. On the other hand, Massachusetts Institute of Technology is abandoning compulsory ROTC in favor of a voluntary program. LOOK magazine in an article in its March 18th issue reports that "the services are taking a nervous new look at the ROTC... The Army has assigned a civilian team to determine why the ROTC is not attracting higher-quality students. The Navy

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RESOLUTIONS: PITHY, POINTED AND PERTINENT!

Sometimes the sour and cynical note is ounded, "How much good are world peace reso- utions at annual conference? No one ever akes them seriously. They are adopted mechani- ally and then buried in the Minutes."

Several comments on this attitude occur to s. The first one is that it is a mistake to ake a world peace report consist entirely of esolutions on issues. A proper outline for he report of a conference board of world peace ould be:

A. The achievements of our Board this past year.

B. Positions on issues recommended by our Board.

C. Our program proposals for next year.

It is desirable to have as many persons as ossible participate in the creation of resolu- ions on issues. If the chairman of the Board rites the first draft, it should be freely re- orked by other members. Some chairmen ask arious members to write paragraphs on certain ssues. It is best if the final draft is ham- ered out in a face-to-face session of the oard. Such an experience helps Board members o state and defend positions on international olicy--a good experience for them.

We believe it good policy to submit such resolutions to a sampling of local church Com- issions on Christian Social Relations or to small groups of laymen or ministers. The av- erage person is much more interested in giv- ing his view of an issue, while it is in the process of formulation, rather than in read- ing a resolution passed by an annual confer- ence in some distant city.

In one annual conference members of the Committee on World Peace brought their word- ings on various resolutions to a January, 1958, meeting. These were criticized and refined. They were then discussed and altered by inter- est groups in two Christian Social Relations Workshops. They were given final form in an overall meeting of the Board of Christian So- cial Relations, in which all world peace mem- bers were present.

If resolutions are democratically compos- ed, if they touch on real and current issues, if they have been stripped of all superfluous phrases and words, they will have value for the annual conference itself and for the Depart- ment of State, to whom they should be sent.

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pounds of manganese, 40 pounds of nickel, 20 pounds of copper and 4 pounds of lead. In the foreseeable future our grandchildren will be reducing the old granite of our vast mountain ranges for their industrial needs at a tremen- dous cost in energy and equipment.

Meanwhile, as Christians, to how much of the world's mineral wealth are we entitled in preserving our comfortable manner of living? How much to save our skins? Can survival be bought at too great a cost to others? Are we free to mortgage the future? Was it Stuart Chase who, a quarter century ago, rephrased the Golden Rule to read, "Do both to the born and the unborn as you would have them do unto you?"

SOME VITAL MATTERS

In the Methodist Peace Courier for Janu- ary, 1958, you will find the resolutions adopted by the Board of World Peace in December, 1958. These should be examined for whatever gold they may contain for your annual conference report. Perhaps, your resolutions in years past have re- ferred to such things as desire for disarmament, support of the United Nations, foreign aid, and extension of trade agreements. If so, continued support of them may be expressed in a few lines.

What new issues are looming upon the hori- zon to which your conference should speak? We see the following concerns having increasing im- portance in the 12 months between June 1, 1958, and June 1, 1959.

SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR TESTS

This issue is part of a larger issue of disarmament. To it much attention has been given by churchmen and scientists. The tests by the U.S. government in the spring of 1958 will receive much attention. Dr. Linus Paul- ing has submitted a petition to Dag Hammarsjkold, signed by 9,000 scientists from 43 nations, ask- ing for the stopping of tests.

The Central Committee of the World Coun- cil said on August 5, 1957: "We urge that as a first step governments conducting tests should forego them, at least for a trial period, either together, or individually in the hope that the others will do the same, a new confidence be born, and foundations be laid for reliable agree- ments."

HUMAN RIGHTS DECENNIAL

December 10, 1958, is the tenth anniver- sary of the signing of the Universal Declara- tion of Human Rights. In the fall of 1958 much attention will be directed towards this document by groups loyal to the United Nations. It would be wise for conferences to reaffirm their loyalty to the Declaration and ask local church groups to measure our church, our nation , and the world by the principles of the Declaration.

EXPIRATION OF SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

The authority for the drafting of men for military service expires in July, 1959. Wheth- er the Act will be renewed or not will be deter- mined before most annual conferences meet in 1959. During the past several years several

organizations have asked for its termination. In 1956 Adlai Stevenson urged voluntary enlistments instead of conscription. If the Act is renewed over and over again, are we not apt to have in reality universal military training, to which our church has so frequently declared opposition?

THE FAR EAST

There is no violence in the Far Pacific, but neither is there a stable peace. Korea is disunited; the U.S. supports Formosa economically and militarily; and the People's Republic of China is not in the United Nations. There would be wisdom in our government proposing a package settlement, which would include unification of Korea by elections under the United Nations, the neutralization of Formosa under the United Nations, and the representation of mainland China in the United Nations.

THE NEAR EAST

In the Near East as in the Far East there is no stable settlement of issues. We believe our government should be more aggressive between crises in pressing for permanent solutions. Note the recommendation in the resolutions of the Annual Meeting (Courier, January, 1958) concerning the establishment of a Middle East Development Authority.

UNIFICATION OF GERMANY

The division of Germany not only affects the freedom and economic vitality of the German people, but is an irritant to European peace and Russian-American relations. Would a unified and disarmed Germany not advance both the welfare of Germany and Europe?

CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

Recently an agreement between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. provided for an expanded program of exchange of scientists, teachers, students, athletes, and artists. This is a welcome development. When such Russian representatives come to our communities, the churches should use their influence to see that they are received courteously.

AFFAIRS AFAR

MINNEAPOLIS: The Tenth Anniversary Session of the World Health Assembly will convene here May 26; the first meeting of its kind to be held in the United States.

CINCINNATI: American television audiences will have a chance to look at Soviet films under an arrangement made by International Television Programs, in an exchange plan, which in its first series will send for viewing to the Soviet Union, "Sea Hunt," "Science Fiction Theater" and "Favorite Story."

LONDON: ZETA, Zero Energy Thermonuclear Assembly, is a British project producing power from sea water by taming the energy of the hydrogen bomb.

SYDNEY: Dr. A. H. Wood, President-General of the Methodist Church in Australia in a strong attack on American foreign policy declared, it was "difficult to reconcile the American attitude with Christian ideals." He charged that Mr. Dulles was "leading the world to atomic death" in a policy "totally out of keeping wit Christian principles."

LONDON: Four prominent Britons, among them Rev. Mr. Donald Soper, noted Methodist pastor, debated the policy of nuclear weapons for Britain, following J. B. Priestley's play, "Dooms day for Dyson" over independent British television. Mrs. Barbara Castle, labor M.P. and Dr. Soper, advocated renunciation of the bomb.

CHICAGO: Seven large American colleges will send 20 students to the U.S.S.R., as first step in the exchange plan, include Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, University of Chicago, University of Indiana, University of California and University of Washington.

ATTENTION! Registrations for the Western Euro pean Study Tour being conducted by Daniel Taylor and Herman Will are still being received. If interested, write immediately to them at 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Illinois.

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is worried about its failure to get enough officers from its vaunted 'Holloway Plan.' And Air Force officials are considering drastically reducing or even eliminating their ROTC units. Their alternative: to give selected college graduates a four-month OCS course followed by flying training."

YOU CAN'T KEEP IT UNDERGROUND

Last September a small atomic explosion about one tenth the power of the Hiroshima bom was set off in an underground shaft in Nevada. Later the Atomic Energy Commission reported that the explosion was not detected by the most sensitive instruments beyond a range of 250 miles. This seemed to be a strong argument in support of the AEC's position on the stopping of nuclear tests. AEC leaders have favored the continuance of tests, arguing that even with the inspection the Russians are willing to accept, secret tests could be conducted underground without detection. But in recent weeks the truth has emerged. Nearly all seismographic instruments within 1,000 miles reported the explosion and even one station 2,300 miles away in Alaska detected it. The AEC has denied any intent to deceive, but even the most generous appraisal is that the AEC, which has been charged with withholding information before, was guilty of gross carelessness in a matter of grave international importance.